GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6895
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
TRANSFER OF EXPERTISE ON GOLDEN RICE AND BT RICE
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;S. MURUGESAN;SHASHI KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has granted its approval for a Memorandum of understanding between University of Agricultural Sciences, Hebbal and InternationalRice Research Institute,Manila, Phillippines alongwith Swiss cooperation for transfer of expertise on Golden Rice and BT rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to ensure that golden rice and BT rice is made available for consumption in two years time?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise

(c) Scientifically it is not possible to have Golden rice and BT rice for commercial cultivation within a period of two years in India. However, efforts are on for transfer of the beta carotene trait from Japonica transgenic rice lines to Indica rices.

Similarly, efforts are also on to develop BT rices carrying more than one Cry genes and also Xa 21 genes in the background of IR 64, Karnal local and Pusa Basmati I and IR 72. These materials are being tested under the controlled conditions.